

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of mounting a printing plate on a cylinder, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing a temperature difference between the plate and the cylinder, a temperature of the plate exceeding a temperature of the cylinder, wherein the plate is unmounted externally to the cylinder; and
- b. wrapping the plate around the cylinder, the temperature difference causing the plate to shrink against the cylinder.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the temperature difference is at least 3 °C.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the temperature difference is established by heating the plate.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the plate is heated uniformly.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method of mounting a printing plate on a cylinder, the method comprising the steps of:

a. establishing a temperature difference between the plate and the cylinder, a temperature of the plate exceeding a temperature of the cylinder;

b. wrapping the plate around the cylinder, the temperature difference causing the plate to shrink against the cylinder, ~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein the plate is drawn from a roll disposed within the interior of the cylinder and advanced around an exterior surface of the cylinder.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the roll is heated.

8. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the exterior surface of the cylinder is cooled.

9. (currently amended) Apparatus for mounting a printing plate on a cylinder, the apparatus comprising:

a. means for establishing a temperature difference between the plate and the cylinder, wherein the plate is mounted externally to the cylinder and ~~such that~~ a temperature of the plate exceeds a temperature of the cylinder; and

b. means for facilitating wrapping the plate around the cylinder, the temperature difference causing the plate to shrink against the cylinder.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the facilitating means comprises registration pins and clamps.

11. (currently amended) Apparatus for mounting a printing plate on a cylinder, the apparatus comprising:

a. means for establishing a temperature difference between the plate and the cylinder such that a temperature of the plate exceeds a temperature of the cylinder; and

b. means for facilitating wrapping the plate around the cylinder, the temperature difference causing the plate to shrink against the cylinder. ~~The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the plate is drawn from a roll disposed within the interior of the cylinder and advanced around an exterior surface of the cylinder, the facilitating means comprising:~~

~~a.(i) means, within the interior of the cylinder, for supporting the roll of plate material; and~~

~~b.(ii) means, within the interior of the cylinder, for receiving plate material extending over a travel path from the roll of plate material over the exterior surface of the cylinder.~~

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the means for establishing a temperature difference comprises means for heating the roll.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the means for establishing a temperature difference comprises means for cooling at least the exterior surface of the cylinder.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the temperature difference is at least 3 °C.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the means for establishing the temperature difference comprises means for heating the plate.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the heating means comprises a heated surface conforming substantially to the plate.

17. (cancelled)